

REMARKS

In the Office Action of July 3, 2006 (hereinafter, "Office Action"), claims 1, 2, 8 – 10, 12 – 14, and 17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by DeHaven, U.S. Patent #4,242,169 (hereinafter, "DeHaven").

In the Office Action, claims 5, 11, and 18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over DeHaven in view of Witherspoon, U.S. Patent #4,309,234 (hereinafter, "Witherspoon").

Please note that claims 1, 4, 16, 19, and 20 have been amended while claims 2 and 3 have been cancelled. Claim 1 has been amended to include the limitations of claims 2 and 3. Claims 4, 16, 19, and 20 have been amended to change their claim dependency.

Amended claim 1 is not anticipated by DeHaven. DeHaven does not disclose the head portion of the tire cap having the structure recited in claim 3, now part of amended claim 1. For at least this reason, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the anticipation rejection.

Amended claim 1 is not obvious over DeHaven in view of Witherspoon. Neither Witherspoon nor DeHaven disclose the head portion of the tire cap having the structure recited in claim 3, now part of amended claim 1. For at least this reason, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the obviousness rejection.

As indicated in the Office Action, claim 3 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form, including the limitations of claims 1 and 2, from which claim 3 depends. Amended claim 1 includes the limitations of both claims 2 and 3. Therefore, amended claim 1 satisfies the stated condition for allowability.

2

RESPONSE TO OFFICE ACTION OF JULY 3, 2006

SAN-04

U.S. Serial Number 10/788,722

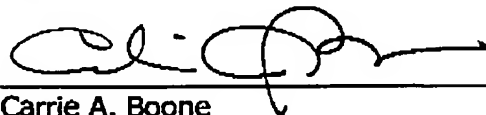
As claims 4 – 20 depend from an allowable claim, all claims are allowable. Applicants respectfully request allowance of claims 1 and 4 – 20.

Conclusion

For at least the reasons given above, Applicants' amended claims are non-obvious over the cited art. Applicants respectfully requests allowance of all claims.

Please associate this file with our customer number **32509**.

Respectfully Submitted,



September 25, 2006
Date

Carrie A. Boone
Reg. No. 48,282
CARRIE A. BOONE, P.C.
2450 Louisiana, # 400-310
Houston, Texas 77006
713-521-2176 Main
713-521-2177 Fax

3

RESPONSE TO OFFICE ACTION OF JULY 3, 2006
SAN-04
U.S. Serial Number 10/788,722